

REMARKS

A. Status of Claims

Claims 1-9 and 13-21 are pending in the application. Please cancel Claims 10-12 without prejudice.

1. (Original) A method for controlling access to a service comprising the steps of:

(A) determining identity and key information of a delegatee; and

(B) delegating permission to the delegatee over a personal area network, wherein said permission is represented using a digital signature and wherein said permission relates to the service;

wherein steps (A) and (B) are performed by a delegator that verifies said identity and key information through physical presence of said delegatee.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said permission relating to said service comprises permission to access said service.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said permission relating to said service comprises permission to delegate one or more further permissions to one or more subsequent delegates.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:

(C) delegating to said one or more subsequent delegates one or more of said further permissions via electronic mail.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said permission to access said service is limited in duration.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said permission to delegate is limited in duration.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein steps (A) and (B) are performed by a delegator that verifies said identity and key information only through physical presence of said delegatee.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the service comprises accessing content.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the service comprises actuating a device.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A system for controlling access to a service comprising:

a delegation device for determining identity and key information of a delegatee; and delegating permission over a personal area network to the delegatee relating to said service, wherein said permission is represented using a digital signature; and wherein the identity and key information is verified through physical presence of said delegatee.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said permission relating to said service comprises permission to access said service.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein said permission relating to said service comprises permission to delegate one or more further permissions to one or more subsequent delegates.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein one or more of said further permissions are delegated to said one or more subsequent delegates via electronic mail.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein said permission to access said service is limited in duration.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein said permission to delegate is limited in duration.

19. (Original) The system of claim 13 the identity and key information is verified only through physical presence of said delegatee.

20. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the service comprises accessing content.

21. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the service comprises actuating a device.

B. Summary Of Office Action

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 and 13-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,144,997 to Lamming et al. ("Lamming"). The Examiner has rejected claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lamming in view of United States Patent Application Publication 2002/0004831 A1 of Woodhill ("Woodhill").

C. Response

The Applicant requests the Examiner's consideration of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, transmitted herewith.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections and requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Lamming, cited by the Examiner, does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1-9 and 13-21. Lamming discloses a system for accessing and distributing electronic documents using portable electronic document transport devices. (col. 3, lines 36-44). While Lamming mentions the possibility of using security encryption (col. 8, lines 48-57), there is no

disclosure of how such security would be implemented in the Lamming system. Lamming assumes the communication can be made secure without discussing how this might be done.

In contrast to Lamming, the claims of the present application detail the implementation of security mechanisms used to control access to a service. In particular, claims 1-9 and 13-21 of the present application include delegating “permission to a delegatee ... using a digital signature [and] wherein the identity and key information [of a delegatee] is verified through physical presence of said delegatee.”

With regard to claims 10-12, these claims have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the pending rejections and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-739-5705 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kent Basson", is written over a horizontal line.

Alison B. Weisberg
Registration Number 45,206
Kent Basson
Registration Number 48,125

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MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1701 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215)963-5091